

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 /102 W

-----088443 181457Z /64

R 171540Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6260

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GY, US

SUBJECT: GSP BENEFITS FOR SUGAR-EXCLUSION OF GUYANA

REF: STATE 008688

1. DURING VISIT OF DEPARTMENT GUYANA DESK OFFICER, GUYANESE SUGAR OFFICIALS TOOK THE OCCASION TO REMIND EMBASSY OFFICIALS OF THE URGENCY FOR AN EARLY DECISION ON REINSTATEMENT OF GUYANA ON GSP LIST FOR SUGAR, CITING THE MARCH 1 "DEADLINE" FOR REDESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES FOR PRODUCTS NOW ELIGIBLE BUT PREVIOUSLY EXCLUDED UNDER SECTION 504 "COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS" OF THE 1974 TRADE ACT. GUYANESE OFFICIALS REITERATED ARGUMENT THAT GUYANA IS BEING PENALIZED FOR HAVING MADE "EXTRAORDINARY" SHIPMENTS TO THE US DURING 1974-75 SUGAR CRISIS IN RESPONSE TO APPEALS FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT BUT FOR THESE SHIPMENTS GUYANA OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE EXCEEDED "COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS" DURING THOSE YEARS.

2. THEY URGED THAT GUYANA BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY REASON OF HER LOW LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES AND BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE
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ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NOW FACING THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH AWARE OF USG POSITION THAT ISA IS "CORNERSTONE" OF US SUGAR POLICY AND THAT IMPORT FEES AND DUTIES HAD TO BE IMPOSED TO MAINTAIN PRICE SUPPORTS FOR US DOMESTIC PRODUCERS, OFFICIALS POINT OUT THAT, IN VIEW OF INCREASED DUTIES IMPOSED IN NOVEMBER 1977, GSP BENEFITS COULD PROVIDE AS MUCH AS US\$5.0 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE

NOW NEEDED TO COPE WITH IMMEDIATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CRISIS
FACING GUYANA.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON
STATUS OF GSP REDESIGNATION OF SUGAR FROM GUYANA. WE ARE
AWARE THAT OF 15 COUNTRIES NOW EXCLUDED UNDER TSUS 155.20
ONLY FIVE WILL EXCEED COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS FOR
CY 1977, REFTEL, THEREBY RENDERING THE REMAINING TEN
COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR REDESIGNATION IN 1978.
BURKE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
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